

OGC Has Reviewed

- CC 2 -

USSR: OVERSEAS & FAR EAST
Dec. 6, 1951

MEMPHIS MOTHER DECRIES KOREAN MADNESS

Moscow, in English to North America, Dec. 6, 1951, 0015 GMT--H

(Korean Program Commentary)

(Text)

"Mrs. (name given--Ed.) of Memphis, Tenn., is an American mother. All she thought about was the joy of her son's birth and all her plans for his future. Paul was her pride and joy and when he was drafted into the army last December and sent to Korea she was in a bad way. At home and on the job she always kept thinking, 'Where is Paul now, how is he faring?' And often she asked herself the question, 'For whose sake is my son fighting in a distant land so far from home?'

"When the truce talks began in Korea, Mrs. (name given--Ed.) took heart. To her as to thousands of other American mothers it seemed that her son would soon be back home. She read the reports of the truce talks, but days went by, and finally some months. The US Command did everything it could to drag out the negotiations. The war kept going on. It eventually became clear to her that the American Command does not want peace in Korea.

"She sat down and wrote a letter to President Truman demanding that the Government put an immediate stop to the war in Korea. What she got in reply was a (cold) letter from the White House chancellery, sent merely for the sake of courtesy. This was in September. After that, Mrs. (name given--Ed.) received only one letter from her son.

'I Want to Do Something'

"What she feared most of all came in the second half of October. It was a notification from the Department of Defense that her son, Paul, was missing in action. It is hard to relate the grief of a mother who has lost her son. Mrs. (name given--Ed.) put in a long-distance call to President Truman, she wanted to tell him that it was madness to go on with the war in Korea and that everything possible should be done to bring about a speedy peace. She was told that the President was not available.

"But Mrs. (name given--Ed.) is not giving up. She does not want other American mothers to share her sorrow and misery. 'I want to do something,' she said, 'to spare the sons and daughters of the present generation from the sufferings war is causing today.' Such is the moving story of (name given--Ed.) and American mother, described in the MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL.

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"In her fight for peace, she is not alone. Most Americans resent the Truman Government's action of delaying and dragging out the peace negotiations in Korea and the fact that thousands of American boys are continuing to die on the battlefields. The way things turned out for (name given--Ed.) may also be the case with many other American mothers and fathers.

"That is why so many people of various professions and creeds are joining (name given--Ed.) in demanding a stop to the Korean War. Is it not revealing that her appeal to President Truman to do everything possible to achieve peace in Korea has found response from all parts of the United States? She received hundreds of letters and telegrams of support in which Americans from every section of the Nation uphold her appeal and insist that the Truman Government abandon the policy of prolonging the war in Korea.

The Most Terrible War

"One can judge the American mood from a letter printed in a local paper in Raymond, THE HERALD. (There is a Dayton, Tenn., HERALD but the above town name is given without state--Ed.)

"According to the author of the letter, people who have gone through all the horrors of the so-called police action in Korea say it is the most terrible war they have ever witnessed. The writer then goes on to say, 'I thought our country was a land of democracy and freedom for the people but can a free people allow such a horrible condition to last? Can it be possible that our Government has become so corrupt and is so firmly in the clutches of greedy politicians that the voice of the free people can no longer be heard?

"On the initiative of the big American youth organization known as American Youth Peace Crusade, boys and girls are now collecting signatures for a Friendship Week, declaring that 'we, the youth of our nation, recognize the danger of (war today) as a threat to our lives, our dreams, and our future, and call upon (the Big Powers) to meet and negotiate a pact of peace and friendship open to all nations.' The (pact for) friendship also declares the following: 'We want an immediate end to the Korean War, a cease-fire negotiated at once, as the most important initial step for world peace.'"

B R I E F S

Korean Film--A new Korean art film, "Korean Partisans," produced by the Korean National Motion Picture Studio and previewed Dec. 3 at the USSR Ministry of Cinematography before presentation in Soviet theaters, portrays the Koreans' struggle during October 1950 against "the American plunderers and Syngman Rhee mercenaries," with many scenes showing the guerrilla-supported Korean People's Army inflicting fatal blows to the aggressors. (Moscow, in Korean to the Far East, Dec. 5, 1951, 1130 GMT--R)

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File + Slander

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REMARKS: 1. [REDACTED] published the attached item in the Unclassified Daily Report but deleted the name of the individual concerned as a precaution against possible slander or libel action.

2. I would welcome your informal opinion as to the correctness of our action in this matter since it would help us in selecting similar material for publication in the future.